representation in the public service. The reason for the fewness of Catholics in the Government service was attributed by him to the partiality shown by higher officials to the members of their own community in the distribution of official favour. The Member pointed out that the unsympathetic attitude of heads of departments towards Catholics in that respect was on several occasions brought to the notice of the Government through the Legislative Council, the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly and the Press.

The Member then proceeded to discuss at length the poor representation of Catholics in the several departments of the State service, such as the Judicial, Police, Education, Registration, Agriculture, Co-operation, Excise, Forest and Sanitary Departments. He also pointed out that in the Secretariat and the Account Office there were only four or five Catholics in the subordinate ranks. Catholics were not admitted into the State Military Department, nor was the prospect of their securing due admission in the Land Revenue Department any the better even after its separation from the Devaswom Department.

With a view to secure adequate representation to Catholics in the service, the Member suggested that strict instructions be issued to heads of departments to appoint only members of such communities as were not already well represented whenever vacancies arose, in proportion to the numerical strength and the educational advancement of the communities concerned.

President's reply.—Mr. Augustine, you have also referred to what Mr. Mathew has already stated. Regarding the representation of Roman Catholics, nothing more can be said than what has been already said by the Dewan yesterday. They could be only appointed without prejudice to efficiency, character and education, and without prejudice to the interests of those already in the service.

106. Certain defects in the Administration of the Police Department.

Mr. Lonan Lonan Pillai (Member, Ambalapuzha taluk) said that he had nothing more to represent than what Mr. M. L. Janardanan Pillai had stated under Subject No. 95.

107. General needs of the Town of Shencottah.

Mr. Chellaswami Chinnananja Pandyan (Member, Municipal Council, Shencottah) said that the minor roads within the town which were not maintained by the P. W. D. might with advantage be transferred to the Municipal Council, together with the funds allotted for their maintenance. Roads within the municipal limits which were not being maintained by the P. W. D., or for that matter, by any agency, must vest in the Municipality, as such roads, being by the side of human habitations, had to be properly looked after from a sanitary point of view.

The next point urged on the attention of Government was the desirability of appointing the local P. W. D. Officer as one of the official councillors. He classified the work of the Municipalities under 3 heads, *viz.*, sanitation, collection of revenue and public works. There was the Sanitary Commissioner to advise the Municipality in regard to sanitary matters. For the collection of municipal revenue, the President was invested with the powers of a Dewan Peishkar. As for public works, only the major Municipalities enjoyed the privilege of claiming the advice of the P. W. D. Officers and the Shencottah Municipality had very often felt the need for a P. W. D. Officer on the Council. He therefore emphasised the necessity of invariably appointing P. W. D. Officers as official members of Municipal Councils wherever possible, so that the Council might have the benefit of their professional advice in matters relating to public works.

The Member next spoke about the attendance of judges of Village Panchayat Courts. He said that the want of a definite provision in the Village Panchayat Courts Regulation prescribing a penalty for the non-attendance of judges similar to Section 19, 1 (*b*), of the Municipal Regulation caused much inconvenience to the people. To obviate the difficulty the Member proposed the insertion of a Section similar to the one in the Municipal Regulation.

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The Member next advocated the investigation of a project for constructing a reservoir in Kannupulli valley to meet the needs of agriculture and water supply for the town. The inhabitants of Shencottah were suffering from water scarcity for 3 months every year, *viz.*, March, April and May. The sinking of wells was useless as the water in the area was brackish. The best course was to construct a reservoir in the Kannupulli valley. Though that suggestion had been made at successive sessions of the Assembly, nothing had been done so far. To carry out the proposal the Member suggested the appointment of a Committee consisting of the Executive Engineer, Quilon, the Division Peishkar and the President of the Shencottah Municipal Council, who should investigate the scheme and submit definite proposals. Two other reservoirs were also suggested on previous occasions, *viz.*, Parapar and and Muriyapanachan. The Member complained that the people were not being benefited by the midwife attached to the District Hospital at Shencottah. For a greater part of the year she was on leave or was engaged in the hospital with the result that she was not available for work among the public. In these circumstances, the Member suggested the desirability of appointing another midwife whose duty should be to visit expectant mothers and give them advice as to the best ways of child-welfare and to attend to maternity cases.

President's reply.—The present official members on the Municipal Council are the Headmaster of the local English High School and the local Medical officer. If the Council thinks that either of them may be replaced by the local P. W. D. Sub-division officer, Government will consider the matter when proposals to that effect are received from that body.

As regards the attendance of Village Panchayat Court Judges, the opinions of the High Court and the Law Officers of Government will be obtained and the matter examined.

As regards the construction of a reservoir in the Kannupulli valley, the Chief Engineer will be asked to look into the matter.

Re. the appointment of an additional midwife, the Darbar Physician says that the services of the previous incumbent have been dispensed with and a more energetic midwife has been appointed in her place and that she is doing her work properly.

With respect to the transfer of minor roads within the limits of the Municipal Council, Government will consider the question when a resolution to that effect is passed by the Municipal Council and forwarded to them.

108. Sanitation with special reference to Shencottah.

Mr. Chellaswami Chinnananja Pandyan (Member, Municipal Council, Shencottah) said that the Perumalkulam tank which was situated in the heart of the town and in close proximity to the Travellers' Bungalow, Forest Divisional Office and the English High School, was a source of nuisance to the public and that the acquisition of the tank was an urgent necessity for improving the sanitation of the town. He pointed out that, though the question had been brought to the notice of the Government in the various sessions of the Assembly by the members elected from the Municipal Council and by the Municipal Council itself, no definite orders had been issued by the Government in the matter. The Member stated that, on a question which affected seriously the health of the town population in general and that of the school children in particular, it was highly necessary that the Government should take early steps. He suggested that the acquisition of the land irrigated by the tank should be made under the urgency clause of the Land Acquisition Regulation.

The next point touched upon by the Member was the necessity of acquiring additional lands for the use of the local English school. He pointed out that the present English High School compound, which was once intended to supply the needs of a Middle School, was hardly sufficient for the purposes of a High School and that the available space was occupied by buildings without sufficient space for purposes of recreation, etc. Besides, the school was situated in the midst of insanitary surroundings. In order to solve the difficulty, the Member suggested that the land surrounding the school compound be acquired as early as possible.

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